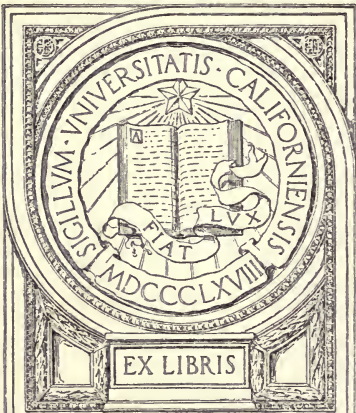


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Brief reports of the operations of the
Sanitary commission in Tennessee, May, 1862.

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U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

BRIEF REPORTS

Of the operations of the Sanitary Commission in Tennessee, May, 1862,

BY

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

SEC'Y WEST. DEP'T.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED, Esq.,

Secretary United States Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR:—

I have just returned from Pittsburgh Landing, where I have spent the last two weeks in doing, so far as in my power, the work of the Commission. And now, before my return, which must be immediate, I will give you briefly a history of some of the results recently accomplished by the various agents and representatives of our organization in Tennessee.

At the time of the battle of Pittsburgh I was in Nashville, engaged in the establishment of a depot of supplies. There are eleven hospitals there, containing about thirty-five hundred sick. Most of the hospital buildings are situated without the city limits, and are large, handsome, airy structures—formerly medical and academical schools, asylums, seminaries, &c.—some of the numerous public edifices for which Nashville has been celebrated. They are generally well located and unusually well adapted to hospital purposes. In these respects they are much superior to the buildings occupied by the sick in Louisville, but in regard to equipments and attendance the comparison is by no means so favorable to them. We found in all a great deficiency in hospital furniture and stores; and since that market affords almost nothing suitable for hospital diet, and the volunteer care and contributions from resident ladies, so important and beautiful an element in the Louisville hospitals, is here almost entirely wanting, the condition of the sick offered abundant inducements for our efforts in their behalf.

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ARMY HOSPITALS.

The Sanitary Commission, as you are aware, has been fortunate in being represented in Gen. BUELL'S army by inspectors of unusual energy and merit—Drs. READ and PRENTICE—and in having to do with one of the best of men, in Dr. MURRAY, the Medical Director. As a consequence, we have here enjoyed the rare privilege of doing all the good in our power, without opposition or impediment. The Commission has, therefore, in this district, become a living force, and working in harmonious and efficient coöperation with the constituted authorities, has accomplished so much in the prevention and relief of suffering, as to secure the sincere respect—to use no stronger expression, of all who are cognizant of its efforts. Such being our *status*, the duty of providing for the wants of those in hospital became at once easy and pleasant. From Dr. E. SWIFT, the Medical Purveyor in Nashville, we received all possible assistance, and through his intervention obtained a fine room, which is now the depot for the stores entrusted to the Commission by the loyal women of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. In this depot we were able to place at once three hundred boxes of hospital stores, which, under the care of Dr. READ and Mr. FRACKER, are being dispensed to the inmates of the hospitals at Nashville, Murfreesboro and Columbia. At these several points there are now from six to seven thousand sick, most of whom were in great need of the very things we were able to supply. I am sure it would gladden the hearts of all who are interested in our work if they could see, as I have seen, the surgeons coming hourly to our depot, bringing long lists of much needed articles, and taking away wagon load after wagon load of sheets, shirts, drawers, towels, pillows, comforts, wine, jellies, eggs, butter, cheese, potatoes, fruit, dried beef, canned meats, &c., &c., all to be immediately and carefully employed to cheer and cure our suffering volunteers. This depot is now one of the institutions of Nashville, and is accomplishing a great amount of good.

Just as it was put into working order we received news of the battle at Pittsburgh, and Dr. PRENTICE and myself hastened to the scene of action.

THE PITTSBURGH BATTLE-FIELD.

On our way up the Tennessee we met three transports descending, loaded with wounded, destined for the hospitals at Paducah and Mound City. Arriving at Savannah Saturday night we found near ~~to~~ thousand sick and wounded crowded into churches, dwelling-houses, ~~and~~ structures of all kinds, filling to repletion every receptacle at all fitted to ~~hold~~. The suffering and destitution here were extreme. The number of ~~surgical~~ and nurses was entirely inadequate, and the resources of the Medical Department in the way of bedding, clothing, dressings and diet so exceedingly meagre, that it is scarcely too much to say that all things necessary to the proper care of this great mass of suffering humanity were wholly wanting.

Depending upon the large stock of stores forwarded to Pittsburgh before

ARRIVED TO VINDY

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the fight, we had little to supply the pressing wants of the wounded at Savannah. We therefore hastened forward on Sunday morning to headquarters at Pittsburgh Landing. The scene that here met our eyes was one to which no description, though it exhausted all the resources of language, could do anything like justice.

For the space of a mile or more the bank of the river was lined with steamers, closely packed together, loaded with troops, stores and munitions of war. Each of these steamers was discharging its cargo, living or inanimate, upon the steep and muddy bank, and soldiers, forage, provisions, clothing, artillery, army wagons and ambulances—the reinforcements and supplies of the great army which covered the hills for miles around—poured on to the shore in a noisy, turbulent, chaotic flood.

To one standing on the bluff overlooking the landing, the scene below seemed one of wild and hopeless confusion. Soldiers hurrying to and fro in a busy, inter-weaving crowd; the countless throng of army wagons floundering through the mud, now inter-locking, now upsetting with their loads; the wounded, borne on ambulances or on litters to the boats; the dead, lying stiff and stark on the wet ground, over-run with almost contemptuous indifference by the living; the busy squads of grave-diggers rapidly consigning the corpses to the shallow trenches—all this formed a picture new, horrible, and never-to-be-forgotten by the many who here, for the first time, were brought face to face with the dreadful realities of the war in which we are engaged. It is no part of my duty, however, to describe to you the horrors of the battle-field. This has been done, graphically and well, by others, and I turn at once, with legitimate pleasure, to the many bright spots in the dark picture I have sketched.

THE HOSPITAL BOATS.

Previous to our arrival, and in company with us, there had come to the relief of the wounded in the battle of Pittsburg, quite a fleet of hospital boats, sent by the considerate humanity of our warm-hearted and patriotic people, and embodying the spirit of our beneficent and wide-spread organization.

These now lay, each marked with its yellow flag, moored among the steamers which lined the shore. They had come freighted with stores, surgeons and nurses, and afforded commodious and comfortable quarters to thousands who, but for their aid, must have endured incalculable suffering, and in many cases death itself. Doubtless you will have received from Dr. DOUGLASS a more detailed account than I can give you of the earlier efforts made for the relief of the wounded, but so far as I could learn, the history of the measures taken for the relief of suffering among the victims of the battle are somewhat as follows:

The preparation made by the government for the engagement which had been expected to take place a few days later, was, for some reason, far from

adequate. Though aid tendered by the Cincinnati Commission had been declined by Gen. HALLECK, just at that time very large requisitions were made on the Branch Commissions of Cincinnati and Chicago by the Medical Purveyor of Gen. GRANT's division. In answer to these requisitions, and spontaneously, a large quantity of hospital stores was sent up the Tennessee from Chicago, Cincinnati and Cleveland, and yet nothing like a sufficient stock was in the hands of the Medical Purveyor to meet the emergency when it arrived. This may be in part accounted for by the fact that on Sunday a portion of the supplies of our army fell into the hands of the enemy, but there is still reason to believe that the medical or military authorities failed to act with the promptness, forethought and energy which the circumstances required. Much had been done, however, in anticipation of this conflict, which was in the highest degree wise and commendable. The government officers had chartered four large steamers, which had been fitted up by the Western Sanitary Commission, and were of incalculable benefit when the fight took place.

Immediately on hearing of the battle, the Chicago Branch Commission, with its accustomed promptness, despatched a special train to Cairo, taking large quantities of supplies, and a corps of surgeons and nurses, all under the care of Rev. Dr. PATTON and Dr. ISHAM. These reached the scene of action on the Louisiana—government hospital boat—on Friday evening. The good which they accomplished by their services and much needed stores, can hardly be estimated; indeed, the arrival of this steamer may be regarded as the sunrise of a glorious day, which soon dissipated the darkness, till then brooding over the battle-field. Dr. SIMMONS, medical director of Gen. HALLECK's army, Dr. BRINTON, his efficient aid, and Dr. DOUGLASS of our Commission, arrived with the Chicago delegation on the Louisiana, and as all acted in harmony and with enthusiasm, you can imagine that their efforts soon gave a new phase to medical affairs at Pittsburgh Landing.

The Cincinnati Branch Commission was also most creditably represented at Pittsburgh. Two first-class steamers, the Tycoon and Monarch, were fitted out as hospital boats by the Commission, furnished with every comfort and even luxury for the wounded, and manned by a large and efficient corps of surgeons and nurses. These boats were under the care, respectively, of Drs. MENDENHALL and COMEGYS. After dispensing with liberal hand of their stores to the sufferers at the Landing, they both returned, carrying loads of wounded, all thoroughly and tenderly cared for, to the hospitals on the Ohio.

From Cincinnati came also, on the same merciful errand, the Lancaster and Superior, chartered by the municipal authorities, for the most part equipped by the Sanitary Commission, and the latter accompanied by ten of its members.

Since that time the Cincinnati Branch Commission has furnished and forwarded several other boats for Pittsburgh and Savannah, and has thus

retained the preëminence in philanthropy gained by the Allen Collier, the pioneer hospital boat despatched by the Commission to Fort Donelson.

The Governor of Ohio sent from Cincinnati the splendid steamer Magnolia, in charge of Dr. WEBER, the Surgeon-General of the State, to look after the wants of the wounded of Ohio regiments. This boat was almost luxuriously fitted up by our efficient auxiliaries, the Aid Societies of Cleveland and Columbus, and returned to Cincinnati with two hundred and thirty of the sufferers in the fight. Since then, the Legislature has made liberal appropriations for this purpose, and several other steamers have been despatched by the Governor on the same mission.

During my stay, there came from Louisville two hospital boats—from Evansville, Indiana, one, and from Quincy, Illinois, another; all chartered by the State authorities for the care of the State troops. These, like those I have before enumerated, were but the advance-guard of the great fleet which, wafted by the breath of sympathy and patriotism, came, bringing health, courage and life to the thousands left shattered and bleeding by the storm of battle.

A large number of other boats were sent by the efficient branches of our Commission which now exist throughout the Western States, and nearly all were fitted out from our stores, and were accompanied by our associate members.

RELIEF OF THE SUFFERING.

This splendid display of humanity may therefore be regarded as the exponent of the value of our organization, and in great part the legitimate fruit of the efforts we have made and the system we have adopted for "promoting the health, comfort and efficiency of our volunteer troops."

It is true, that in the luxuriant growth of the measures of relief in which the interest of the people in the success of our arms, and the fate of brothers, sons, husbands and lovers has expressed itself, symmetry has been often lost, and system over-shadowed; yet, while we have to regret that in many cases the efforts for the relief of suffering have been irregular, wasteful, fruitless and even harmful, we can congratulate ourselves that, on the whole, incalculable good has been done, in which all should heartily rejoice.

The part which Dr. DOUGLASS, Dr. PRENTICE and myself were able to perform in the great work which has been done at Pittsburgh Landing, was, I think, not without its value and importance. It was to harmonize and systematize, so far as possible, the diverse, and sometimes discordant elements which are in action in a common cause.

Through our relations with the military and medical authorities, we were able to facilitate the accomplishment of the objects for which our friends had come, and to effect the more speedy and complete relief of the suffering.

It affords me sincere pleasure to say that at all times and in all cases, we were most courteously and kindly treated by those in authority, and a degree of respect and consideration accorded to us, as the representatives of our Commission, which was most gratifying to us, and complimentary to it.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES.

In addition to the duty to which I have alluded, I devoted myself, during a part of my stay, to the establishment of a depot of supplies at this point.

Through the kindly coöperation of Dr. GRINSTED, the Medical Purveyor, this was easily accomplished. He assigned to our use a series of tents pitched adjoining his own, in which were placed the stores sent there on my requisition, and then turned over to us by the Branch Commissions of Chicago, Cincinnati and Columbus. These combined, composed nearly one hundred and fifty boxes of supplies, containing an assortment of the most useful articles.

This depot was put in charge of Dr. PRENTICE, and before I left, was in active and successful operation. The surgeons of the regiments composing Gen. HALLECK'S army were systematically notified of its existence, and when coming with their requisitions to the Medical Purveyor, now apply to him for such things as they need and government cannot furnish.

The importance of the work accomplished by the depot may be inferred from the following extract from a letter written by Mr. F. C. SESSIONS, of Columbus, Ohio:

* * * * * "The United States Sanitary Commission is doing a noble work. Many of our men must have died had it not been for the generous support sent by Ladies' Aid Societies. At the Purveyor's office, there were no hospital stores, and not a full supply of medicines. I distributed nearly all the fifteen boxes from Columbus, on two hospital boats. Dr. PRENTICE, of Cleveland, Medical Inspector, appointed by the United States Sanitary Commission, has now three large tents near the Purveyor's office, and is distributing sanitary goods without regard to States. Any needy regimental hospitals can be supplied. Many Aid Societies complain that their goods are not distributed to the immediate friends from the points from which they are sent. It is impossible for him to do so, and the rule of the Commission forbids it. Some local institutions have sent goods here and carried them back, and others have been thrown upon the shore with none to care for them. Dr. PRENTICE is indefatigable in his labors to correctly distribute anything sent to him, to examine personally the needs of the regimental hospitals, and to distribute only to the surgeons or on their requisitions. Goods sent to Dr. PRENTICE, United States Sanitary Commission, care United States Purveyor, Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee, or to the Commissions at Cleveland, Columbus or Cincinnati will be properly cared for. Had it not been for the sanitary system at Pittsburgh Landing, many a brave man would have been yond saving." * * * * *

To the depot at Pittsburgh Landing I have since sent a large amount of stores, and shall to-morrow start with over two hundred boxes more, and with nearly a steamer load of potatoes, vegetables, fruits, stimulants, ice, &c., &c., all furnished by the liberality of the Soldier's Aid Society of Northern Ohio.

A STORE-SHIP NEEDED.

In this connection let me say that we greatly need, in Gen. HALLECK's department a steamer that shall ply between the frontier and the excellent markets of the Ohio, carrying fresh meat, vegetables, fruit, &c., &c., which, in addition to the ordinary hospital supplies, would be furnished in any quantity by the liberality of our people if we only had the means of transporting them. The Medical Director has promised me a barge for a floating depot, which may thus be moved from point to point as circumstances may require; but we want something more—a steamer instinct with life, to go and come as we may direct—now carrying sick or wounded to hospital, or discharged and furloughed men to their homes and friends; now returning richly freighted with all the abundance of the North, to those who, sick or well, have for months tasted nothing better than hard bread and bacon. It seems to me that, on proper conditions, the government should furnish us such a boat.

A greater battle than that at Pittsburgh is daily expected at Corinth, and to meet our responsibilities in such an emergency, I start this evening for Cincinnati to take charge of a steamer which has been chartered for a trip to that point, and which, with its load of stores and corps of attachés, will, I hope, be the means of preventing in some degree, both suffering and loss of life.

Yours Respectfully,

J. S. NEWBERRY,
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY.

CLEVELAND, May 16, 1862.

MRS. B. ROUSE, PRESIDENT SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY:

DEAR MADAM:--

Having just returned from Pittsburgh, Tenn., whither I went with a steamer chartered by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, fitted up for the reception of the sick, and richly freighted with hospital stores by your Society, it seems to me proper that I should make some report to you of what use and disposition I have made of the abundant and valuable stores which you committed to my care.

On my arrival at Cincinnati, I found the 251 boxes and barrels sent May 1st to my address, not only all safe in the custody of the agents of the Little Miami Rail Road Company, but thanks to the generosity of the officers of the road, and those of the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Rail Road, all subject to my order, with no charge for transportation.

These stores were put on board the Lancaster, No. 4—the steamer we had chartered—without delay or accident.

The 251 packages to which I have referred, contained, according to the

accompanying invoices, 317 bed ticks, 275 comfortables, 1223 towels, 15 mattresses, 546 sheets, 191 pairs socks, 874 pillows, 2,010 pillow cases, 800 shirts, 889 handkerchiefs, 641 cushions, 98 pairs drawers, 7 vests, 2 pairs pants, 15 coats, 98 pairs crutches, 8 blankets, 452 sheets, 24 bed-gowns, 37 pairs slippers, 270 pin cushions, eye-shades, &c., 988 lbs. dried beef, 384 lbs. groceries, 6 boxes dried fruit, 15 lbs. dried apples, 961 cans and jars of fruit, 5 kegs pickles, 1866 dozen eggs, 1 box apple butter, 519 lbs. butter, 124 lbs. bread, 985 lbs. cheese, 1462 lbs. dried fruit, 7 bottles lemon syrup, 360 bottles wine, 2 boxes lemons, 11 bottles horse radish, 21 bottles catsup, 9 lbs. soap, 10 gals. maple syrup, 632 lbs. maple sugar, 29 spittoons, 28 basins, 310 vols. books, 3 boxes magazines, 130 lbs. linen lint.

I also, in accordance with your instructions, and with the money furnished by your Society for that purpose, purchased in Cincinnati nearly 200 packages of such articles as could be best procured there, and such as seemed necessary for the comfort and well-being of the sick among our soldiers in Tennessee.

These articles, which are enumerated in the accompanying invoices and vouchers, consisted of Lemons, Oranges, Sauer-Kraut, Potatoes, Crackers, Codfish, Ice, Ale, Tea, Coffee, Tapioca, Sago, Cocoa, Farina, Mustard, Soap, Loaf Sugar, Tin-ware, Wooden-ware, Fans, Musquito Bars, &c., &c. Having received all these things on board, we left Cincinnati Friday evening, May 2d.

At Louisville we took on board 159 convalescent soldiers returning to duty, several paymasters, with \$3,500,000 in cash, and a quantity of government freight, by the transport of which, the expenses of our trip were reduced over \$700. Our voyage down the Ohio and up the Tennessee was made without accident or incident.

We arrived at Savannah early on the morning of the 6th, and found there nearly six hundred sick, but all pretty well cared for, and not greatly in need of articles of clothing or diet. Pittsburg Landing was, on our arrival, comparatively deserted and quiet. The great body of the army having removed to a distance of from six to twelve miles, and being more readily reached from Buell's Landing and Hamburg—points higher up the river—Pittsburg had in a great measure lost its importance as an entrepot for supplies, and hospital station.

The Medical Director and Purveyor of Gen. Halleck's army still made their headquarters there, however, and we found the Depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission occupying part of the store-ship of the Medical Purveyor, and in the hands of Dr. Douglass, Dr. Warriner, Mrs. Noble, Mr. Clapham, Mr. Mall, and Mr. Goodsmith, who were doing a large and important business in supplying the wants of the sick. Learning from the Medical Director that Hamburg, seven miles above Pittsburg Landing, had already become the most important port of entry for the army on the river, and that the business of Pittsburg Landing would soon all be transferred to this point, by his advice we transported our stores to that place,

and established a new depot there, which is now in charge of Dr. Prentice.

There were, at the time of our visit, 3,500 sick at Hamburg, and although nearly every day a steamer load was being removed, they were coming in in such numbers as to keep the hospital tents prepared to receive them, crowded to their utmost capacity, and even more than full. The hospitals here are in charge of Dr. W. VARIAN, (son of Rev. Mr. VARIAN of Cleveland), assisted by Dr. GAY, Dr. STIPP, and others. These gentlemen are doing all things possible for those under their care, and are performing an amount of labor that is severely taxing their strength. From the surgeons I have mentioned, we received every attention and kindness. They provided for us a house in which to place our stores, and transported them to it from the boat. They also gave us assurance of the continuance of the hearty coöperation which they have initiated.

From the report of Dr. VARIAN and my own observation of the condition of the sick at Hamburg, I learned that the demand for hospital clothing had been, for the time, pretty well supplied by the Medical Purveyor and the contributions of the people, mainly through the agency of the branches of the U. S. Sanitary Commission. Of proper articles of diet, however, such as composed the bulk of your donations, there was a sad deficiency. Most of the sick are greatly debilitated, and are much more in want of stimulants and nourishing, appetizing food, than any kind of medication. Most diseases here assume a typhoid type, and more than half of the severely sick have typhoid fever. Scurvy is beginning to make its appearance among our troops, and the health of all is impaired by their long-continued deprivation of fresh meats, fruits and vegetables. I cannot describe, nor can you fully imagine, how great blessings the eggs, the butter, the cheese, the oranges, the lemons, the thousand cans of fruit, the sauer kraut, the pickles, the ice, the potatoes, the ale, the wine, and other articles of equal value, which composed your generous gift, will be to these poor, feeble, feverish, and almost famished fellows, now lying in the hospitals at Hamburg Landing. Could our people realize how priceless a boon an orange, or a glass of lemonade would be to those who are burning with fever, breathing that stifling air, they would hardly rest till so cheap a luxury was possessed by all those who deserve from us so much greater things and who could so readily command them at their homes.

As an evidence of the value of one item of your contributions, let me say that the eggs alone, which arrived in excellent condition, if sold at the prices obtained for them there by the sutlers, would bring the sum of over \$600.

Having transferred our stores to the Depot, we took on board, mainly at Hamburg, 218 sick. These were for the most part from Michigan regiments, there being many more from this State requiring removal than from any other. This was due to the fact that the steamers sent from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky, had taken away the sick from these States nearly as fast as they had gathered here. Representing the National Sanitary Commission, our steamer took those most requiring removal, without reference to State lines.

Having received on board all we could by any means accommodate, we left Hamburg and Pittsburgh Landing, Friday morning, the 9th, on our return trip.

Before our departure the Tycoon, sent by the Governor of Ohio for Ohio sick, arrived at Pittsburgh, having on board Dr. READ, and his brother, M. C. READ, who had been laboring for some weeks most successfully in the distribution of stores, and in the care of the sick at Nashville. As your Society has manifested a deep interest in the condition of the sick at Nashville, and your donations have contributed as much as those from any other source to their present well-being, the testimony of a well-known and entirely reliable gentleman to the value of our depot, and the efficiency of our agents, contained in the following extract, will not seem unimportant.

Mr. F. C. SESSIONS, who went to Pittsburg Landing, as Commissary, on the steamer Tycoon, writes to the Columbus *Journal* as follows :

“Our people probably, are not generally apprised of how much the Western Branches of the United States Sanitary Commission have done, and are doing, to relieve our sick and wounded soldiers. In Gen. BUELL’s department, for the last two months, they have had thirty military hospitals under their charge, commencing at Elizabethtown, Munfordsville, Bowling Green, Kentucky; Nashville, Murfreesboro, Shelbyville, Franklin and Columbia, Tennessee. There have been something like 7,000 patients in all; at Nashville, 4,606; and on the 1st of this month there were 1,300 remaining; 311 deaths. They have distributed 26,000 articles. The goods were nearly all sent from Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Louisville, but distributed wherever needed. In the hospitals at Nashville, every bed is furnished with sheets, pillows, comforts, etc.

A neighboring State, having sent out local agents to distribute only to its own troops, one of them inquiring for their sick, with a few boxes, was invited to go with Dr. READ, our Inspector, and in one hospital seventy-eight were found from that State. After distributing their goods to them, our Commission distributed in addition to them *more goods than had been received altogether from that State* : showing our desire to be impartial. I visited the camps and hospitals at Camp Nevin and Green River, in November and December last, and found some of them in a wretched condition. Now, in Gen. BUELL’s army especially, you will find the police of the camps equal to the “Roman army;” streets clean, tents well ventilated, refuse slops carefully disposed of, so as not to be offensive, and great improvements in cooking. One boy, after coming into one of our hospitals and having his bed cared for and made comfortable, looked about him in the morning and remarked, with tears in his eyes, “It looks as if mother had been here.”

On our return, I was so fortunate as to secure the services of Mrs. NOBLE and Mrs. WILCOX, ladies well known to you, who have been for some time most assiduously occupied in the care of the sick at Savannah, and in the

arrangement and distribution of our stores at Pittsburgh. I cannot express to you how much I feel indebted to both these ladies for the important part they took in the care of the sick on our way home—their presence and efforts not only relieved me from labor and anxiety, but what is of much more consequence, secured to those under my charge all the thousand delicate yet important attentions which only a woman can give at the bedside of the suffering.

On receiving the sick on board our steamer, the most seriously ill were placed on cots in the cabin and on the guards. Each cot was spread with quilts, comfortables, clean white sheets and pillows; as inviting a bed as a sick man could ask. It would have done your heart good if you could have heard the expressions of satisfaction which fell from the lips of these poor fellows when their soiled camp-stained garments were taken off, each washed throughout, and clad in clean under-clothes, then laid between the sheets to which they had so long been strangers.

Those who were less sick were provided with comfortable beds spread on the boiler-deck, mattresses filled with straw, quilts and comfortables in abundance, from the boxes which you sent.

The food furnished to the sick was abundant, varied and excellent. Fresh bread, butter, eggs, fresh beef in the form of soup, tea and coffee, boiled rice, stewed apples, canned fruits, with wine and ale to those requiring them, formed a bill of fare of which they did not seem disposed to complain.

I may perhaps weary you with an enumeration of these details, but you must remember that not an article of food or clothing was dispensed on our boat which was not your gift.

On Sunday religious services were performed by Mr. MERWIN, and as cleanliness is next to godliness, our convalescents were tempted to self-purification by the offer of a pair of socks to every one who would wash his feet, to those who would perform a general ablution, clean shirts and drawers. In this way, with little trouble to ourselves, we soon brought our whole cargo of living freight into a more comfortable and presentable condition.

After dinner, all who were able to move about were gathered to the bow, and I made them a little speech, in which I described to them the interest that is felt, and the efforts that are made for the health and comfort of the soldier by his friends at home—told them who had chartered the steamer which was carrying them so swiftly homeward—who had made and sent to them the gifts they were receiving, &c. &c. I closed by distributing to them a basket of cake which I held in my hand—prefacing the distribution, however, with the following little story: when away down at Pittsburgh Landing, in unpacking a box filled with miscellaneous niceties intended for the soldiers, all showing women's warm hearts and women's skillful hands, I had come upon a beautiful loaf of cake, nicely wrapped in a napkin. This I had laid away without opening, intending to cut and distribute it at the

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